Articles concerning the Admiralty of England,

and the iuriſdiction thereof. 21. *Julij.* *Anno Domini.* 1591. *Regnique ſereniſſimæ Dominæ Elizabethæ Reginæ triceſimo tertio.*

Irſt you ſhall enquire if any perſon ſworne vpon any Jurie or Inquiſition in the Court of our Soueraigne Lady the Queene of her Admiraltie of England, haue opened or diſcouered the counſell of our ſaid Soueraigne Ladie, or the ſecrets of this Realme, and his fellow Jurors.

2 Item ye ſhall enquire, if any perſon in or vpon the Sea, or in any other Port, Riuer, Creeke or place, of freſh water, where the Lord High Admirall of England hath, or hath beene accuſtomed to haue authoritie and iuriſdiction, hath committed and exerciſed any treaſons, felonies, ſpoyles, murders, confederacies and piracies, or who hath ayded and aſſiſted the ſayd committers or exerciſers of ſuch offence.

3 Item ye ſhall enquire, if any perſon with furniture, munition or victualles, haue fortified, ſtrengthned or animated her Maieſties enemies.

4 Item ye ſhall enquire if any perſon in or vpon or neere the ſea, or elſewhere, within the iuriſdiction of our Soueraigne Lady the Queenes Maieſties Admiraltie of England, hath beaten any of her Maieſties ſubiects, friends or confederates, with whom her Maieſtie hath peace, truce, and friendſhip, or to whom ſhe hath giuen or graunted her ſafe conduct or protection, contrary to the peace of our ſayde Soueraigne Lady the Queene, or that hath taken and caried away contrary to the peace of our ſayde Soueraigne Lady the Queene, any Shippes, Boates, Nettes, Ropes, Cordes, or other goods whatſoeuer, or that hath tranſgreſſed or offended in the ſame.

5 Item you ſhall enquire if any perſon hath permitted or ſuffered his priſoner to depart, before it was knowen of what degree or condition he was. Becauſe if he were of alliaunce vnto any King or Prince, he is the Kings priſoner, and not the takers, if of any other condition, then he muſt ſatiſfie to the Lord Admirall for his ſhares aſwell for his priſoner, as for any goods taken vpon the Sea whatſoeuer.

6 Item you ſhall enquire, if any perſon vpon the high Seas, in great riuers, or elſe where within the iuriſdiction of the Lord high Admiral of England, hath found any ſhip, ryon, leade, or any other goods floating or lying vnder the water or in the depth, of which there is no poſſeſſor or owner, which commonly are called Flotzon, Jerſon, and Lagon, and hath not ſatiſfied the Lord Admirall for one moitie (thereof) accruing vnto him.

7 Item you ſhall enquire if any perſon in great riuers, ſtreames or creekes, and in freſh waters, from the firſt bridge towards the Sea, or elſe where within the iuriſdiction of the Lord high Admirall of England hath erected made or ſet vp, any Milles, Kiddles, or any other inſtrument or Engine, which to thoſe that ſaile and paſſe by or to ſhippes, and the ſame Riuers, are commonly noyſom or hurtfull.

8 Item ye ſhall enquire, if any perſon vpon the high Sea, or in any other place within the iuriſdiction of the Lord high Admirall hath found and taken vp the body of any dead perſon, and hath not reſtored vnto the Lord Admirall the goods and Jewels he found and tooke with the body, becauſe the Lord Admirall hath the diſpoſition of ſuch goods found.

9 Item yee ſhall enquire if any perſon hath taken in the Sea, or in any other place within the iuriſdiction of the Lord Admirall, Whales, Sturgions, Porpoſes, Balenes, or Graſpes, or any other great, fatte, and ouergrowen fiſh, and hath not ſatiſfied the Lord Admirall for the one halfe thereof.

10 Item ye ſhal enquire if any perſon arreſted or preſſed to ſerue the Queene, and hath receiued money ſo to do, and hath abſented himſelfe and not ſerued her Maieſtie accordingly.

11 Item ye ſhall enquire if any perſon hath caried or tranſported to the partes of beyond the Seas, any merchandizes or other goods whatſoeuer, for the which the Queenes cuſtomes and ſubſidies haue not bene paid.

12 Item ye ſhall enquire of all thoſe which take Oyſters or Muſcles, betwixt the firſt day of May, and the feaſt of the exaltation of the holy Croſſe, and alſo of thoſe which at any time of the yeere with nettes two ſtraight, or tight, in great Riuers, or in other places within the iuriſdiction of the Lord Admirall, doe deſtroy yong Salmons or other yong fiſhes, or ſpawne and frye of fiſh.

13 Item ye ſhall enquire if any perſon other then to places licenſed, hath tranſported beyond the Seas, Wooll, Sheepe ſkinnes, Tinne, Leade, or other cuſtomable goods, without ſpeciall licence of the Queene.

14 Item ye ſhall enquire of thoſe which doe hinder, reſiſt or let, the officers of the Admiraltie, to decide and correct tranſgreſſions, batteries, felonies, and other things whatſoeuer done vpon the Sea or vpon whatſoeuer riuer, water, or creeke of the Sea, vnto euery firſt bridge and flowing of the Sea, or full Sea marke. For all thoſe that ſo doe, are as rebellious and contemptuous perſons to be puniſhed.

15 Item ye ſhall enquire if any perſon to the parts of beyond the Seas, haue tranſported any golde or ſiluer contrary to the fourme of the ſtatute in that behalfe prouided.

16 Item ye ſhall enquire of thoſe which in the entrie or mouth of any Port, or within any Port doe foreſtall and buy victuals in groſſe, to the detriment and domage of the common people next adioyning.

17 Item ye ſhall enquire of thoſe which doe arreſt or impleade any in any other place, then in the Court of the Admiraltie, for matters or cauſes which are notoriouſly knowen to belong to the Court of the Admiraltie.

18 Item ye ſhall enquire of thoſe which hinder the Marſhall of the Court, or trouble him and other the Lorde Admirals officers and miniſters, in executing and doing thoſe things which the ſaid Lord Admirall hath commanded to be executed.

19 Item ye ſhall enquire of thoſe which in their ſhips, wittingly doe receiue rebels, felons, outlawes, baniſhed men, or their goods.

20 Item ye ſhall enquire of thoſe which do ſteale, cut, or take away, the ſigne fixed to the Anchor, which commonly is called he Boye, wherby any Ship, or Pinnas or other veſſell is loſt or damnified.

21 Item ye ſhall enquire of thoſe which doe hier, fraight, and lade foraine and ſtrange ſhips or veſſels, whereas they may for a reaſonable price hier and fraight the ſhips of her Maieſties Subiects, which they are ſpecially bound to maintayne and ſuſtaine, and not to vſe ſtrange bottomes or ſhips.

22 Item yee ſhall enquire of Shipwrights, and other handicrafteſmen, workemen and miniſters, which doe exact and receiue exceſſiue wages or ſallaries, contrary to her Maieſties lawes, and the ancient cuſtomes of the Sea.

23 Item ye ſhall enquire of thoſe which make wrecke of ſhippes or other goods periſhing by ſhipwrecke vpon the Sea, whereof ſome hath come to the land, or who doth clayme to haue ſuch wrecke, except it be granted him by the King, or that he and his predeceſſors time out of memory of man, by preſcription haue held and poſſeſſed the ſame.

24 Item ye ſhall enquire who or what perſons doe throwe or caſt any Ballaſtage or Filth in the Channels of any Port to the hurt and detriment of the ſame.

25 Item ye ſhall enquire of thoſe Saylers or Mariners, which vpon the Seas are rebellious againſt their owners or maſters, and contrariwiſe, whether the ſayd owners and maſters doe vſe and curteouſly handle their Mariners, according to the purport of the ſtatute of good behauiour in this caſe prouided.

26 Item ye ſhall enquire, if any hath taken vpon him the charge or care of conducting or bringing of any Ship or veſſell, from place to place, as Loadſman, Maſter or Pilot, by whoſe ignorance, fault or negligence, the ſame ſhip or veſſell with the merchandizes, goods, and things in her being, haue periſhed or any way bene damnified.

27 Item ye ſhall enquire of thoſe who within the iuriſdiction of the Admiraltie, haue ſtrooke, beaten, or drawen blood of any perſon, or made any fray.

28 Item ye ſhall enquire what perſon hauing any victuals, goods or merchandiſes, laden in ſhips, purpoſing to goe vnto, and enter any port or ports, to ſell the ſame there, for the profit of that Countrey, hath retourned and caried away the ſaid victuals and goods, to the preiudice and hurt of her Maieſtie and Subiectes.

29 Item ye ſhall enquire alſo of thoſe that regrate corne (of whatſoeuer ſort) or ſalt or freſh fiſh, or any other goods whatſoeuer, enhauncing or raiſing the firſt price, and ſelling them at a greater rate or value, or in a dearer market then in the beginning they ought to be ſold, to the domage and hurt of her Maieſtie and her liege people.

30 Item ye ſhall enquire of thoſe that vſe (within the iuriſdiction of the Lord Admirall) falſe buſhels or meaſures, buying or ſelling with the ſame buſhels, Corne, Salt, Sea coales, and other meaſurable goods whatſoeuer, (which exceede not the land Buſhel called the Quenes Standerd by one pottell) for their owne ſingular or priuate commoditie and profite.

32 Item ye shall enquire of those, which within any of their shippes doe weigh merchandises or goods, by or with ballances or weights, not agreeing or being sealed with or according to her Maiesties Standerd, to the fraud, hurt, and deceit of her people.

33 Item ye shall enquire of all those, viz. Marshals, Baylifs, and other ministers and servants of Noblemen, that have presumed to take or receive to the vse of their Lords and Maisters, any goods or other things whatsoever, upon the high Sea or other places, within the iurisdiction of the Admiralty, spoyled and brought to land, have presumed to take or receive to the vse of their Lords and Maisters, such goods as are forfeited or the forfeiture of them to the prejudice and derogation of the Lord high Admirall.

34 Item ye shall enquire of all those which gather and inclose, the salt water into ditches and make to themselues standing fish ponds, or indraughts, and of newe making, and beginning gulfes and other deepe and immouable places, getting and receiuing the commodities and profites thereof to their owne proper and priuate vses and necessaries which in salt waters ought to be common to all persons.

35 Item ye shall enquire of those which doe gather and receiue within any port or other place, of any Ship of the portage and burthen of fifty tunnes and vpwards for anchorage thereof aboue fours pence, and of any Ship vnder that burthen for anchorage thereof aboue two pence, by meanes wherof, the said Ships do leaue and forsake the said places to the hurt, hinderance, and domage of the common people adioyning.

36 Item ye shall enquire of the keepers of ports, customers, water baylifes, or other officers whatsoeuer, which clayme or beginne newe customes for their owne or their maisters priuate and proper commodities, by meanes whereof the Ships and merchants doe forsake the saide port and places with their merchandizes, to the hurt, domage, and losse of the common profit and vtilitie of the Common wealth.

37 Item ye shal enquire of those which are ordeyned or prested to serue the King vpon the Sea in any Ship in time of warre or peace, and if from the said seruice, without leaue or vnlawfully they haue absented themselues.

38 Item ye shall enquire what men of Honours Stewards, and Baylifs, inhabiting, or hauing mansion houses neere the Sea coast, do hold and vsurpe to hold plea, of any matter or cause concerning merchants, and mariners, or marine causes, aboue the summe of fourtie shillings sterling.

39 Item ye shall enquire of All Ships which haue bene arrested or prest to serue her Maiestie vpon the Sea, and afterwards the maisters, owners, and proprietaries thereof, by fraude and deceipt haue withdrawen, or keepe them from the same seruice, defrauding her Maiestie.

40 Item ye shall enquire of those which wittingly and willingly haue cut the Cables of any Ship or Ships or other vessell or vessels, or hath broken any (no reasonable cause vrging him or them thereunto,) by meanes whereof the said ship or vessell is lost or drowned, or some man by that occasion killed.

41 Item ye shall enquire of those which eyther by day or night haue remoued the Anchor of any ship (not giuing warning thereof first, to the Maister and mariners thereof) by meanes whereof the said Ship or Ships, was rack away or lost, or any man slayne.

42 Item ye shall enquire of felonies committed and done vpon forraine and straunge Ships or vessels, being, or riding at an Anchor in any port, when it is not apparant, who or what he or they were, that committed or did the said spoyle or piracie.

43 Item yee shall enquire of petite transgressors or pickers, which haue stollen or take away vpon the Sea, or within any port or creeke, Anchors, Cables, Ropes, Sayles, Ropes, girdles, Shirts, Breeches, or other small things whatsoeuer.

44 Item ye shall enquire of all common and notorious malefactours as well vpon the high Seas, as in any Port, Hauen, riuer, creeke or streame.

45 Item ye shall enquire who of custome, force or authority (from merchants or mariners with their ships fraighted and laden with victuals and merchandizes entering any portes or other places) doth take or hath taken away victuals against their wils and pay them for the same at their pleasure, by occasion whereof the said merchants and mariners doe leaue and forsake the said ports and places, to the hurt and domage of her Maiesties good Subiects.

46 Item ye shall enquire of all those persons which commonly fight with, or beate any of her Maiesties subiects and people within the iurisdiction of the Lord Admirall, contrary to the peace of her Maiestie.

47 Item ye shall enquire of all those, which vpon the high Seas, haue found any Ships, Pinnaces, Boates forsaken, or wayfts, driuing, or floating, without any creature in the same, being by the space of a day naturall, and hath not answered the Lord Admirall his part, viz. the halfe thereof.

48 Item yee shall enquire of all those which doe receiue or conceale any Deodandes (to the Lord Admirall in vertue of his office of Admiralty by right appertaining or belonging) that is Shippes or other vessels, out of which all liuing creatures in the same by shipwracke, seemeth to haue bene perished or cast away.

49 Item ye shall enquire if any person or persons haue bene slaine, drowned, or come to his or their death by any Ship or Ships, or their tackle, or furniture, as Anchor, Cable rope, or any other thing whatsoeuer to the Ship belonging, or by the sayling, mouing, or going of the Ship vpon the Sea.

50 Item ye shall enquire of those which buy any kind of grayne or roome, of whatsoeuer state, condition, or degree they be vpon the sea coasts, and transport the same to any the parts of beyond the Seas, without the speciall licence of the Queenes Maiestie.

51 Item ye shall enquire of those which after some mariners or fishermen, haue set or layd their nets, cordes, or engines to fish, doe come after them, and place, pitch or lay their nets and engines so neere them, that the fisher men which first set, cannot fish, but are deprined and bereft of the benefite of their birth and fishing, or otherwise much grieued and troubled, by meanes whereof contentions and debates often growe, and happen, to the great prejudice of her Maiestie, the Lord high Admirall, and other her Maiesties subiects, against the lawes of the Sea in this behalfe prouided.

52 Item ye shal enquire, and true presentment make of all those, that since the late proclamation, haue had trafficke with the Leaguers in Fraunce, or shipped, caried, or sent any victuals, Ordinaunce, Powder, Shot or other Artillerie for Spaine, the Islands, or any leaguer towne in Fraunce, or other place in enmitie with her Maiestie.

53 Item ye shall enquire and present all maner of Shippes, Boates, vessels, and other goods of men outlawed, remayning within iurisdiction of the Admiralty.

54 Item ye shall enquire and truely present all those that haue set out any ships or other vessels to sea, without Commission vnder the great seale of England, or the great seale of the Admiralty first obteyned.

55 Item ye shall enquire what ships, goods, moneys and merchandizes, haue bene taken at sea, without such Commissions, and brought into any part of her Maiesties dominions and by whome, and who were owners, Captaines, Maisters, and chiefe officers of such Ships, and where they or their prises taken did arriue.

56 Item ye shall enquire of all maner of breaking bulke of prizes, and disposing and parting of prize goods before sentence were first giuen in the high Court of the Admiralty, that the same were lawfull prize, and truely present by whom and where the same hath bene done.

57 Item yee shall enquire for all such that contrary to their Commissions of reprisall, haue caried any prizes by them taken into Barbary, Fraunce, Ireland, or any other place out of this Realme, and there disposed the same, and of what value they were of.

58 Item ye shall enquire what Captaines, Maisters, Mariners, or others at Sea, vnder colour of their Commission of reprisall, haue aboyded, taken, or spoyled any ship or ships of England, Fraunce, Scotland, Denmarke, Italy, Holland, Zealand, Germany, or any other place in league and amitie with her Maiestie, and what goods they haue so taken or spoyled, whither they haue brought them, and who haue bought, received, or had any part of the same, in any manner sort or condition, or haue borowed or lent any money to buy the sayd goods.

Iul. Cæsar.

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